

1018

Benedit VIII enforces celibacy on the clergy

Council of PAVIA Imposes  
Church Discipline (NOT Eccumenical)

For the Roman Church during the Dark Ages through which Europe passed in the 9th & 10th centuries, lay control of the Church was a disaster. Learning and culture were the preserve of the clergy, as they were NOT in the East, while benefices were at the disposal of illiterate local magnates - so the demand for

spiritual and moral reforms in the church, which arose from both monks and secular clergy in the 11th cen. became entangled in temporal politics, leading eventually to the great "investiture contest" waged between Pope and emperor.

One of the 1st successes of the reform came at Pavia in 1018. Celibacy had long been a characteristic form of Christian asceticism & in West had been habitual. Early Middle Ages saw countenance and violation of the vow of chastity. Benedict summoned the council in Pavia in 1018 & decreed that the clergy of the Roman Church be both celibate and chaste.

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in 1018. Celibacy had long been a characteristic form  
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habitual among the parish clergy since the  
3rd cen.. It remained voluntary, but the  
papacy grew increasingly opposed to clerical  
marriage, which fell into disrepute, and by the early  
middle Ages, the chief laxities were concubinage and  
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Bulgaria was reduced to a  
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